48 PAGES--EVERY WEEK!
ACTION
COMICS® WEEKLY
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U.K. 80p
BEWARE MY POWER... GREEN LANTERN'S LIGHT!
PLUS:
PHANTOM STRANGER
BLACK CANARY
SUPERMAN
BLACKHAWK
NIGHTWING
SPEEDY

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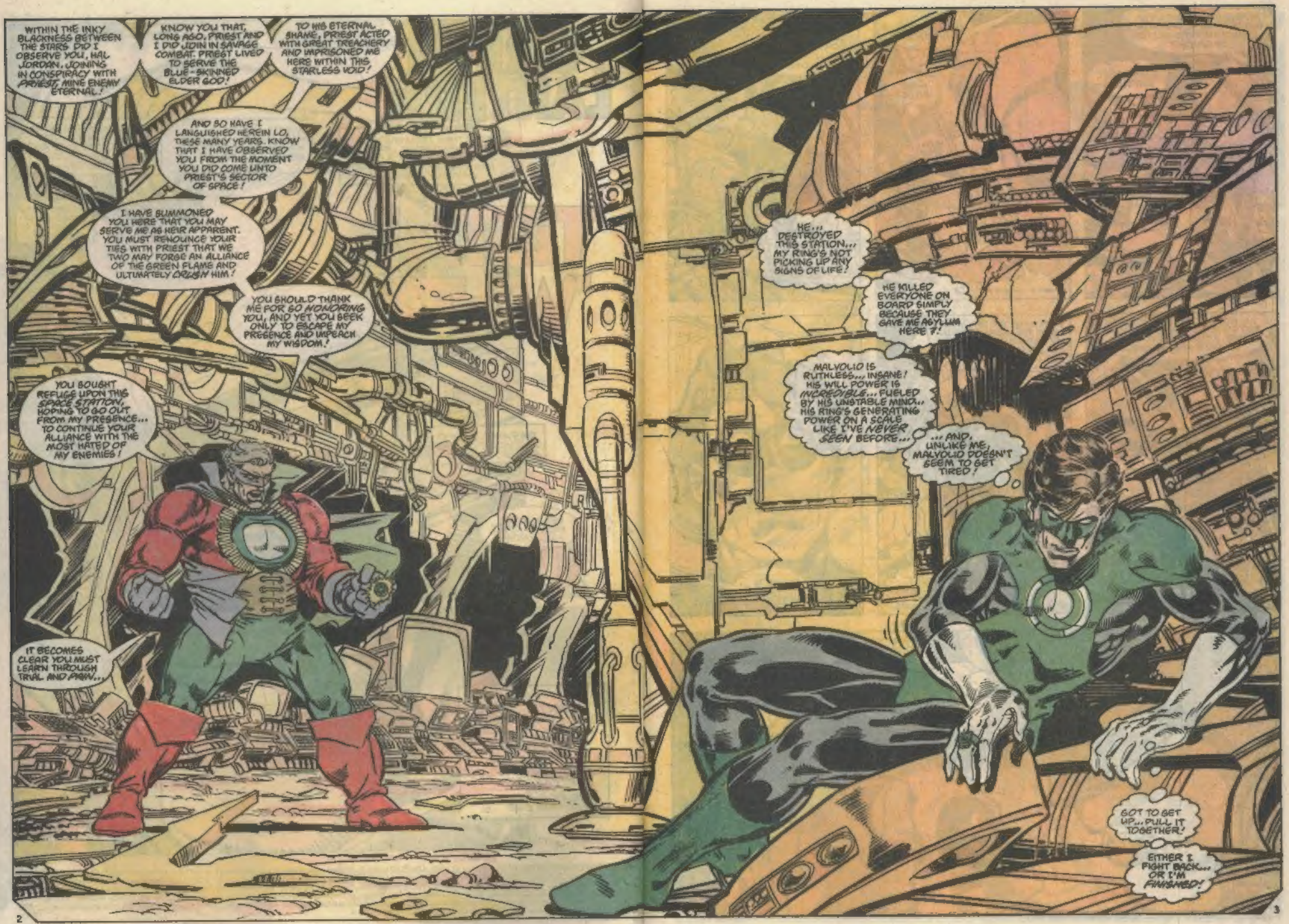

WITHIN THE INKY BLACKNESS BETWEEN THE STARS DID I OBSERVE YOU, HAL JORDAN, JOINING IN CONSPIRACY WITH PRIEST, MINE ENEMY ETERNAL!
I KNOW YOU THAT, LONG AGO, PRIEST AND I DID JOIN IN SAVAGE COMBAT. PRIEST LIVED TO SERVE THE BLUE-SKINNED ELDER GOD!
TO HIS ETERNAL SHAME, PRIEST ACTED WITH GREAT TREACHERY AND IMPRISONED ME HERE WITHIN THIS STARLESS VOID!
AND SO HAVE I LANGUISHED HEREIN LO, THESE MANY YEARS. KNOW THAT I HAVE OBSERVED YOU FROM THE MOMENT YOU DID COME UNTO PRIEST'S SECTOR OF SPACE!
I HAVE SUMMONED YOU HERE THAT YOU MAY SERVE ME AS HEIR APPARENT. YOU MUST RENOUNCE YOUR TIES WITH PRIEST THAT WE TWO MAY FORGE AN ALLIANCE OF THE GREEN FLAME AND ULTIMATELY CRUSH HIM!
YOU SHOULD THANK ME FOR SO HONORING YOU, AND YET YOU SEEK ONLY TO ESCAPE MY PRESENCE AND IMPEACH MY WISDOM!
YOU BOUGHT REFUGE UPON THIS SPACE STATION, HOPING TO GO OUT FROM MY PRESENCE... TO CONTINUE YOUR ALLIANCE WITH THE MOST HATED OF MY ENEMIES!
IT BECOMES CLEAR YOU MUST LEARN THROUGH TRIAL AND PAIN...
HE... DESTROYED THIS STATION... MY RING'S NOT PICKING UP ANY SIGNS OF LIFE!
HE KILLED EVERYONE ON BOARD SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY GAVE ME ASYLUM HERE?!
MALVOLIO IS RUTHLESS... INSANE! HIS WILL POWER IS INCREDIBLE... FUELED BY HIS UNSTABLE MIND... HIS RING'S GENERATING POWER ON A SCALE LIKE I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE...
...AND, UNLIKE ME, MALVOLIO DOESN'T SEEM TO GET TIRED!
GOT TO GET UP... PULL IT TOGETHER!
EITHER I FIGHT BACK... OR I'M FINISHED!

FOR QUITE A TIME I DID WANDER THE STARS UNTIL I FOUND PRIEST'S SECTOR OF SPACE--
KNEES STILL RATTLING--
--AND THE HOMEWORLD OF MY FATHER!
--NO GOOD--
TO EARTH CAME HE IN THE SIXTEEN HUNDRED AND TWELFTH YEAR OF OUR LORD, WHERE HE MET AND LOVED AN EARTH WOMAN.
GET IT TOGETHER OR YOU'RE DEAD, HAL...
THE WOMAN DIED IN CHILDBIRTH. AND SO WAS I RAISED UP BY MY FATHER, HIMSELF A KEEPER OF THE GREEN FLAME.
THAT'S IT, YOU MANIAC, KEEP ON RANTING!
GIVE ME TIME TO GET MY BEARINGS...
THEN CAME THE DAY WHEN I SAW THE WEAKNESS IN MY FATHER'S EYES. THEN DID I SLAY HIM AND ASSUME HIS GUISE!
JUST ANOTHER FEW SECONDS--
THERE IS WEAKNESS IN YOU, HAL JORDAN!
SHOW ME YOUR BACK AGAIN...
...AND I SHALL KILL YOU.

KERRAASSH!!!
NO!!!

BRAAKKT!!

SO, THE PUP HAS TEETH AFTER ALL, EH ?
BLAST! EVERYTHING IN THIS STATION IS MADE OF GOLD-- MY RING'S NOT EFFECTIVE ON ANYTHING MADE OF YELLOW!
YOU ARE POOR SPORT, HAL JORDAN!! TO SUCH AS WE, RETREAT IS INCONCEIVABLE!

GOTTA DOUBLE BACK--

FROM OUR VERY FIRST ENCOUNTER TO THIS, YOU HAVE NOT STOPPED RUNNING!
HE'S RIGHT.
MALVOLIO'S KEPT ME OFF-BALANCE AND A BIT SPOOKED.
WELL, ENOUGH OF THAT.
MY HEAD'S CLEAR NOW. PANIC'S SUBSIDING. NOW...

... I'M JUST TICKED!

WHOOOSH

YEEAARRGGHH!!
ZZZAAPP!!

YOU... DARE ASSAULT THE LORD OF--

ZAP!
ZAP!
ZAP!
YEP.

ZAP!
ZAP!
ZAP!
ZAP!

ALL RIGHT, MALVOLIO.
NOW IT'S JUST YOU AND ME.
MAN TO MAN.

YOU'RE CRAZY.
ABSOLUTELY INSANE.
I SHOULD FEEL SORRY FOR YOU.
BUT--
WHAAM!
--I JUST--
WHAAM!
--DON'T!!
WHAAM!
NOBODY HAS TO DIE.
WE'RE GREEN LANTERNS, MALVOLIO. WE TOOK AN OATH.
IT SHOULD MEAN SOMETHING TO YOU.
IT DOES TO ME.
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE STILL ALIVE.
I... WARNED YOU... ABOUT SHOWING... YOUR BACK, JORDAN--
THAT'S IT, MALVOLIO. GIVE ME AN EXCUSE--

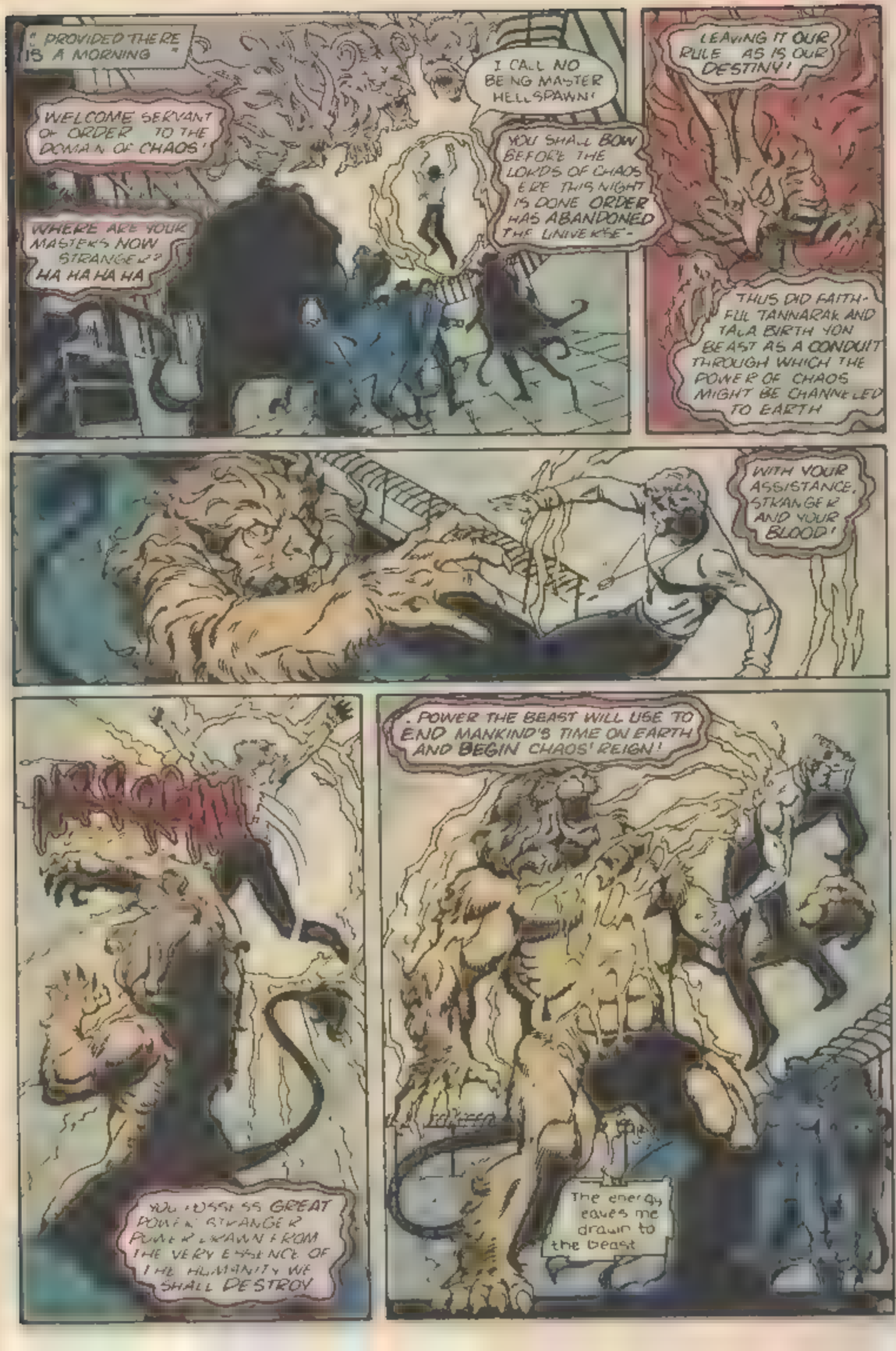
ZWX: THE END. AS FINAL AS IT GETS.

PHANTOM STRANGER™
"CAT AND MOUSE"
CHAPTER FOUR
Tannarak...Tala... two emissaries of Chaos, returned to life and their evil works by the dark lords of the universe...
...To make me their first victim in the subjugation and destruction of fragile earth...
ENOUGH, STRANGER! YOU HAVE PENETRATED MY MASQUERADE, DEFIED TANNARAK AND OUR BESTIAL OFFSPRING ...BUT YOUR CAUSE IS HOPELESS! SURRENDER NOW... AND PERHAPS YOUR DEATH WILL BE LESS PAINFUL!
PAUL KUPPERBERG ..... writer
FRED CARRILLO ..... artist
DAN MCKINNON ..... letterer
PETRA SCOTESE ..... colorist
RENEE WITTERSTAETTER ..... editor
DON'T BE A FOOL, TALA! THIS ONE IS IMMUNE TO REASON. HE'LL FIGHT ON, NO MATTER WHAT HE'S FACED WITH.
THAT IS THE VERY REASON FOR MY EXISTENCE, TANNARAK -
-BUT YOUR ILK WOULD NOT KNOW OF SUCH THINGS.
...YOU, WHO WOULD BECOME WILLING SLAVES OF THE LORDS OF ORDER IN BETRAYAL OF MANKIND!

SUCH NOBLE SENTIMENTS.
...BUT THEN, IT WAS BECAUSE OF THAT VERY NOBILITY THAT I WAS ABLE TO ASSUME THE FORM OF YOUR BELOVED CASSANDRA CRAFT--
---AND DRAW YOU INTO OUR WEB WHILE YOUR HEART WAS PREOCCUPIED BY HER PRESENCE. BUT YOU SHOULD STILL FEAR FOR HER-- BEHOLD!
WHERE IS SHE?!
SHE IS WELL FOR THE MOMENT-- OUR PRISONER IN A NETHER-DIMENSION...
"...AS YOU ARE TO BECOME OURS HERE ON EARTH."
STRIKE NOW, TANNARAK! FOR ALL HIS MIGHT, THE STRANGER CANNOT WITHSTAND OUR COMBINED POWER!
FWZZAP!
CORRECT, AS USUAL, DEARHEART
THE STRANGER IS OURS.
THEN WE MUST MAKE HASTE, TANNARAK.
...WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME! CAN'T YOU GO ANY FASTER?!
NOT UNLESS WE WANNA WIPE OUT HALF THE PEDESTRIANS IN MANHATTAN...

SO CALM DOWN DR THIRTEEN! WE GOT YOU FROM THE BRONX TO MOTOWN AND WE'LL HUH?
ALL UNITS RESPOND! A DISTURBANCE AT THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING
THAT THAT'S IT
THE TROUBLE I WAS WARNING YOU ABOUT!
LOOKS LIKE A FREAK LIGHTNIN' STORM TO ME, DOC
YOU SURE THIS AIN'T SOME STUNT FOR YOUR GHOST-BREAKIN' BIZ?
I WISH TO HEAVEN IT WERE
TRUST ME OFFICER
THEN WHAT THE DEVIL'S GOIN ON --?
I DOUBT YOU'D BELIEVE ME IF I TOLD YOU!
AWAKEN, STRANGER! WE'D HATE FOR YOU TO SLEEP THROUGH THIS THE TIME HAS ARRIVED, THE ENERGIES ARE AT THEIR PEAK--
--THE LORDS AWAIT!
JOIN HANDS WITH ME, TALA MAKE OUR LIFE-FORCE AS ONE FEED THE POWERS
LET THE LORDS OF CHAOS COME FORTH!
Tara and Tamarak speak

And the universe responds!
...air and sound explode across the heavens
Driving through a mystical wedge which rends the fabric of reality-
Opening wide the doorway to hell!
WE HEAR YOUR CALL, FAITHFUL ONES WE HAVE COME!
GOD KNOWS WHAT'S HAPPENING UP THERE BUT IT CAN'T BE GOOD!
WILL YOU LISTEN TO ME--! I'VE BUILT A CAREER OUT OF DEBUNKING ALL THINGS SUPERNATURAL
POLICE
BUT THE STRANGER'S THE ONE PIECE OF WORK I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO DISPROVE AND THE ONLY ONE TO MAKE ME DOUBT MY LIFELONG BELIEFS
I'VE GOT TO GET UP THERE
HELP HIM SOMEHOW
HOLD IT BUDDY NOBODY'S ALLOWED INSIDE THE PREMISES
KRAK
SORRY OFFICER-
--BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY CHOICE
MUCH AS I'M GOING TO REGRET THIS IN THE MORNING


" PROVIDED THERE IS A MORNING "
WELCOME SERVANT OF ORDER TO THE DOMAIN OF CHAOS!
WHERE ARE YOUR MASTERS NOW STRANGER? HA HA HA HA
I CALL NO BEING MASTER HELLSPAWN!
YOU SHALL BOW BEFORE THE LORDS OF CHAOS ERE THIS NIGHT IS DONE ORDER HAS ABANDONED THE UNIVERSE-
LEAVING IT OUR RULE AS IS OUR DESTINY!
THUS DID FAITHFUL TANNARAK AND TALA BIRTH YON BEAST AS A CONDUIT THROUGH WHICH THE POWER OF CHAOS MIGHT BE CHANNELED TO EARTH
WITH YOUR ASSISTANCE, STRANGER AND YOUR BLOOD!
. POWER THE BEAST WILL USE TO END MANKIND'S TIME ON EARTH AND BEGIN CHAOS' REIGN!
YOU POSSESS GREAT POWER, STRANGER POWER DRAWN FROM THE VERY ESSENCE OF THE HUMANITY WE SHALL DESTROY
The energy eases me drawn to the beast

He takes it in hungrily feeding upon it
. upon me
And as the beast grows-
So grows the power of Chaos..
Diminishing forever mankind's chances of survival!
I I JUNT WANT TO BELIEVE THIS EVERY BIT OF REASON I POSSESS TELLS ME IT CANT BE HAPPENING-
- BUT I M SEEING IT
THEY'RE KILLING THE STRANGLE W TH
' WITH MAGIC!'
Each passing moment weakens me further
I cannot wrest free
I cannot staunch the flow of my lifeforce I can but bear mute wit ness to my own destruction
LOOK AT HIM DEAREST TALA! DOESN'T IT MAKE YOU PROUD TO BE A PARENT?
NO! STOP THIS--
EH- FY

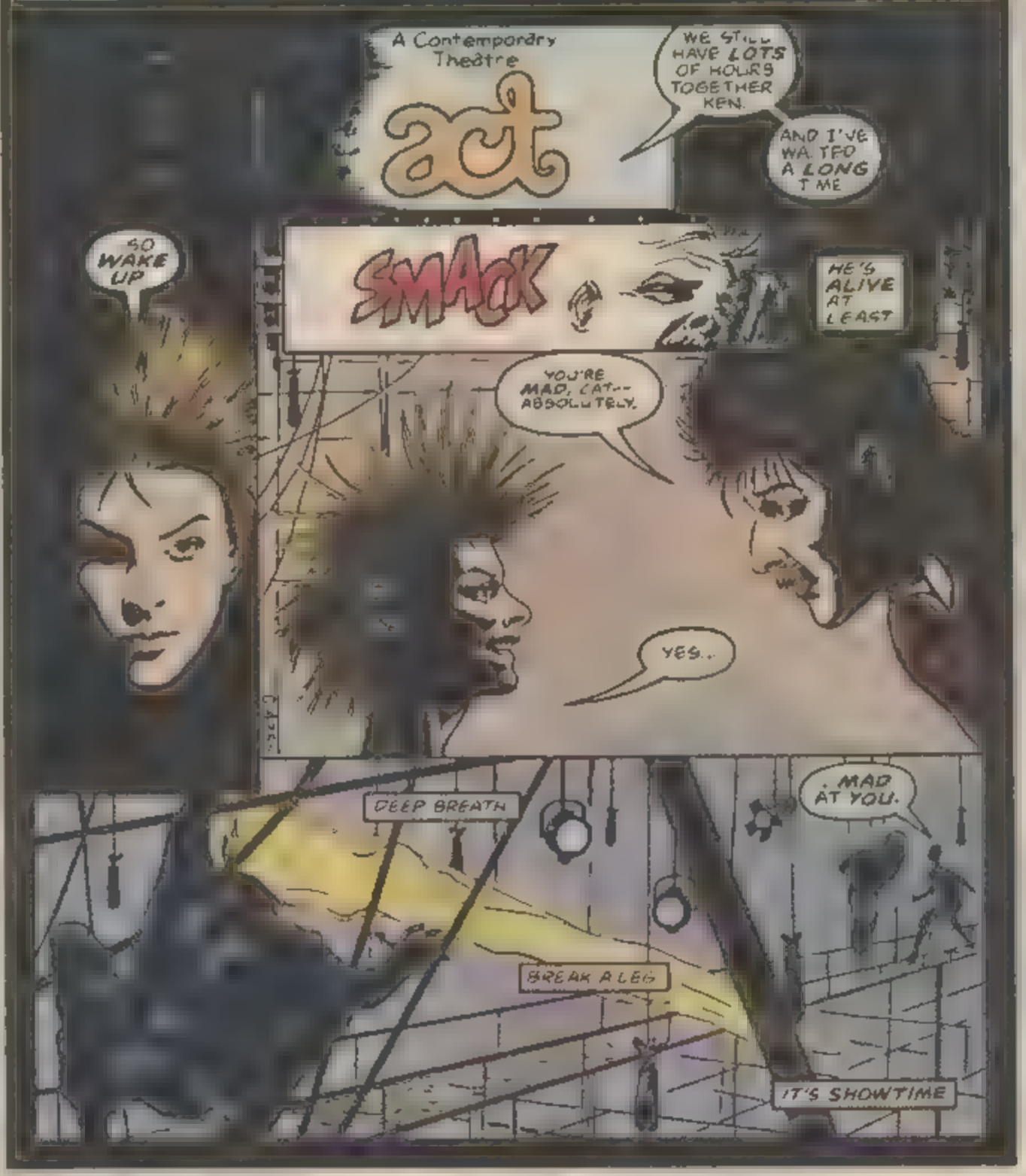
-STOP IT NOW!
OUT OF THE WAY, TANNARAX!
HOW QUAINT! ALLOW ME MY DEAR!
SINCE THIS IS PROBABLY THE CRAZIEST THING I'VE EVER DONE-
-I MIGHT AS WELL GO ALL THE WAY WITH IT!
NO TERRENCE! TURN BACK -- THESE MATTERS ARE OUT OF YOUR REALM
RROOAAAR!
GRRRROOAARR!
SON OF A GUN
IT WORKED
IN YOUR WEAKENED STATE -- YOU POSSESS NO DEFENSE AGAINST MY MAGICS!
PERHAPS NOT A MYSTICAL DEFENSE, TANNARAX-
YOU HAVEN'T WON STRANGER

BUT I HAVE OTHER RESOURCES AT MY COMMAND!
NO!
HEY! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE THROWING HIM
Tannarak spoke the truth
A simple fall, even from this great height can not harm the beast
but the clash of tannarak's chaos spawned magics and the beast's powers derived from my own life-force - that is another matter!
RELAX STRANGER AS SOON SHE SAW EVERYTHING FALL APART TALA LEFT THOUGH DON'T ASK ME HOW
THEN IT'S OVER
BUT FOR ONE FINAL MATTER
UHH RIGHT YOU KNOW I WOULDN'T MIND AN EXPLANATION OF EVERYTHING WE JUST WENT THROUGH
SOME OTHER TIME TERRENCE FOR NOW, CASSANDRA!
S STRANGER! IS IS THAT YOU?! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT AFTER ALL THESE YEARS THERE'S SO MUCH TO SAY!
THERE IS TIME NOW CASSANDRA
TIME ENOUGH FOR EVERYTHING!

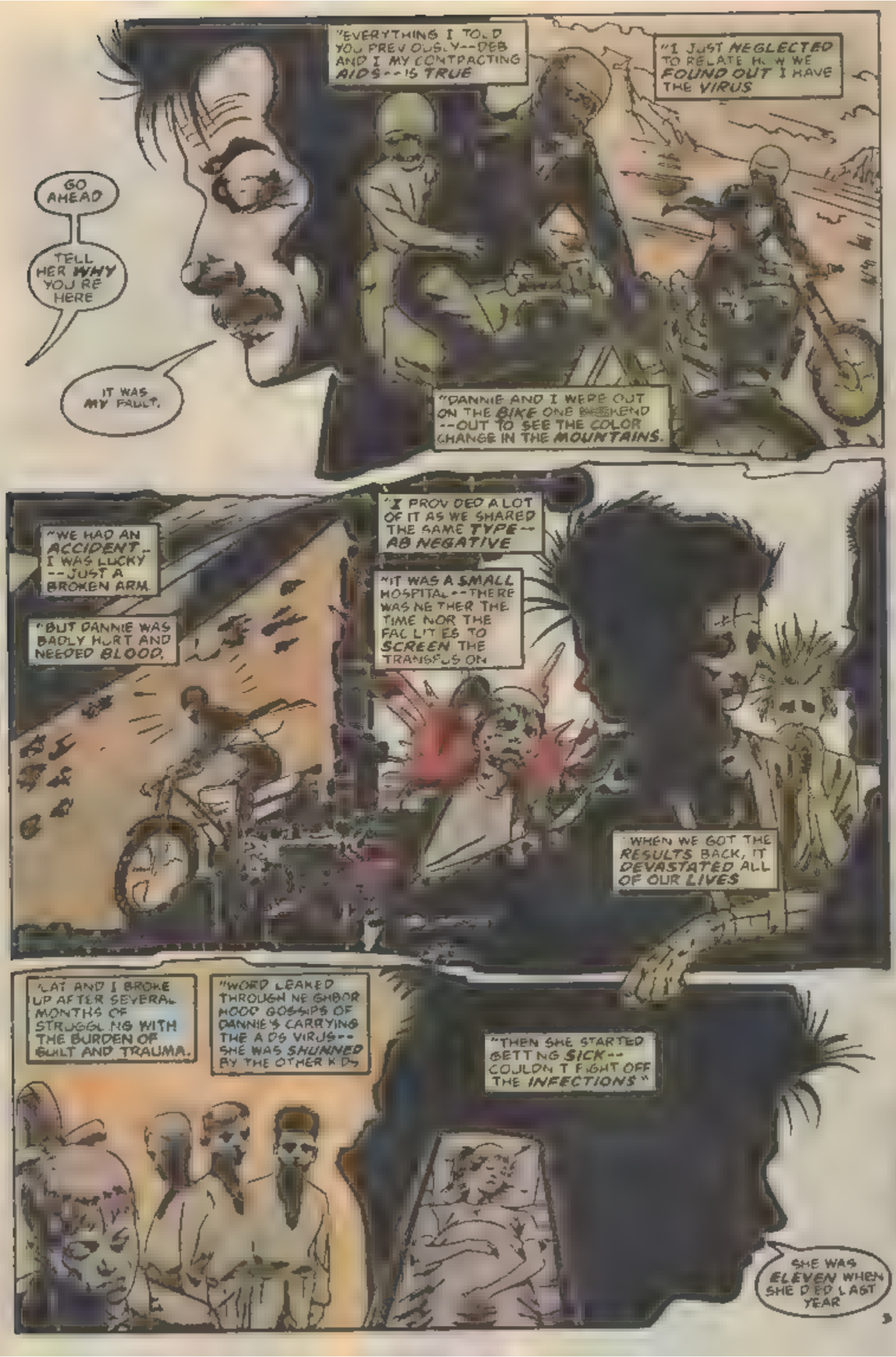
BLACK CANARY

knock 'em DEAD PART II

Sharon Wright writer **Randy DuBurke** penciller **Pablo Marcos** inker
Steve Haynie letterer **Gene D'Angelo** colorist **Robert Greenberger** editor



NOW HOLD STILL, KENNY THIS A LONG DROP!
THERE IS ALMOST NO SOUND
THE CREAK OF ROPE--
--A SQUEAK OF LEATHER
JUST ENOUGH TO HEAR
YOU!
YOUR DAUGHTER CAT
HOW DID SHE DIE?
YOU DON'T TELL YOUR LITTLE FRIEND KEN?
I'M NOT SURPRISED


"EVERYTHING I TOLD YOU PREVIOUSLY--DEB AND I MY CONTRACTING AIDS--IS TRUE
"I JUST NEGLECTED TO RELATE HOW WE FOUND OUT I HAVE THE VIRUS
GO AHEAD
TELL HER WHY YOU'RE HERE
IT WAS MY FAULT.
"DANNIE AND I WERE OUT ON THE BIKE ONE WEEKEND --OUT TO SEE THE COLOR CHANGE IN THE MOUNTAINS.
"WE HAD AN ACCIDENT-- I WAS LUCKY --JUST A BROKEN ARM.
"BUT DANNIE WAS BADLY HURT AND NEEDED BLOOD.
"I PROVIDED A LOT OF IT AS WE SHARED THE SAME TYPE-- AB NEGATIVE
"IT WAS A SMALL HOSPITAL--THERE WAS NEITHER THE TIME NOR THE FACILITIES TO SCREEN THE TRANSFUSION
"WHEN WE GOT THE RESULTS BACK, IT DEVASTATED ALL OF OUR LIVES
"CAT AND I BROKE UP AFTER SEVERAL MONTHS OF STRUGGLING WITH THE BURDEN OF GUILT AND TRAUMA.
"WORD LEAKED THROUGH NEIGHBORHOOD GOSSIPS OF DANNIE'S CARRYING THE AIDS VIRUS-- SHE WAS SHUNNED BY THE OTHER KIDS
"THEN SHE STARTED GETTING SICK-- COULDN'T FIGHT OFF THE INFECTIONS"
SHE WAS ELEVEN WHEN SHE DIED LAST YEAR

SHE'S DECIDED AND I STILL CAN'T REACH HER
AND ALL BECAUSE OF THE SINS OF THE FATHER
IT'S TIME KEN
ASHES TO ASHES
NOT PHYSICALLY
DUST TO DUST
I FOUND YOUR COOKIE JAR
DANNIE?
NO!
THE WAIL THAT THROBS FROM THE WOMAN WOULD CURDLE THE HACKLES OF A WEREWOLF
NNOO!!
ANOTHER ENRAGED

HOW MANY HOURS HAS YOUR VITALITY BEEN KEEPING DOWN YOUR SLEEVE?
THEY FIGHTING AS FIERCELY AS ANY CREATURE WOULD FOR ITS OFFSPRING.
WHERE YOU'RE FIGHTING JUST TO STAND
AND CHI'S WONDERING THE SAME THING
THAT LIGHT
SO IT'S TIME TO CHANGE THE GAME
CHICKEN?
DAMN THAT LIGHT
CHANGE THE GAME
5

SHE'S FINISHED
HOLD
STEADY
STEADY
READY
SWERVE

IF YOU HADN'T BEEN SO DAMN SET ON KILLING ME...
YOU WOULDN'T HAVE KILLED YOURSELF.
OR MAYBE YOU ALREADY HAD
EPILOGUE!
DINAH
DINAH
COME ON! WE'LL GET YOU OUT OF HERE
YOU NEED SOME ATTENTION-- YOU'RE WHITE AS A SHEET
KEN?
WE GOT HIM HE'S GOING TO BE FINE.
I TRIED TO GET HIM DOWN-- TOO HEAVY
MAKE SURE
HE GETS THIS
TELL HIM THAT IT'S INTACT
AND THAT THE OTHER WAS A FLAIR FOR THE DRAMATIC.
AND IT WORKED
BLACK CANARY RETURNS NEXT WEEK TEAMED ALONGSIDE SUPERMAN, GREEN LANTERN AND THE BLACKHAWKS!

SUPERMAN

Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

RUSHING TO SHUT DOWN A SPACE BORN ENERGY BEAM THAT POWERS TWO WARRING GROUPS ON EARTH SUPERMAN IS SWEPT FROM THE FACE OF THE UNIVERSE BY A MYSTERIOUS FORCE !

"BREATHLESS!"

ROGER STERN WRITER
CURT SWAN PENCILLER
MURRAY ANDERSON INKER
BILL OAKLEY LETTERER
TOM ZILKO COLORIST
MIKE GARLIN EDITOR

G-4462

WH WHERE AM I ?

MUST HAVE BEEN TELEPORTED SOMEWHERE SHOCK KNOCKED MOST OF THE BREATH OUT OF ME

NO AIR HERE WHEREVER HERE IS

THAT MACHINE ..! I CAME HERE TO STOP THAT MACHINE

AND WHATEVER HAPPENS I'M GOING TO DO IT

BEFORE THOSE POOR DELUDED IDIOTS BACK ON EARTH WIPE EACH OTHER OUT !

WHATEVER THIS THING IS MADE OF IT IS NOT THAT TOUGH..

?!?!

LUNGS FEEL AS IF THEY'RE ON FIRE !

GOT TO IGNORE THE PAIN

A LITTLE FURTHER ALMOST GOT HOLD OF SOMETHING VERY HOT

DID IT !

NOW GOTTA FIND MY WAY OUT OF HERE GOTTA FIND AIR FAST

OH I'M DOOM

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK !

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L-3543

ACTION COMICS WEEKLY Editor

Let me say first that this letter is my first ever written to a comic book editor but the time has come to speak up. I just read the latest issue of *Comic Buyer's Guide* and it said that ACTION COMICS WEEKLY will no longer be done on a weekly basis. If this is true, I wholeheartedly protest this move.

My son got me hooked on comics about three years ago after not looking at one for over 20 years. I now spend almost $20.00 a week on comics (from DC, Marvel, and Comico) and I rank ACTION COMICS WEEKLY as my number 1 comic. I like it because it has several different stories in it, and you don't have to wait a month to find out what happens. If I happen not to like one story, I don't feel cheated. My only complaint is that the Superman story is far too short each week—it's my least favorite, even though I like the story line. If you must make changes, then try some of the following first:

1) Increase the size of the Superman story to the same length as all the other stories.

2) Drop one or two stories each week, or cut the size of each story to six pages each, so as to be able to drop the price to $1.00 or $1.25.

3) Publish bi-weekly.

If none of the above are acceptable, then bring back WORLD'S FINEST COMICS or ADVENTURE COMICS to replace ACTION COMICS WEEKLY with the same format.

Thanks for listening and keep up the good work (I hope).

Ed Hamrick
15522 Anthony
Romulus, MI 48174

Well ... we discussed what's happening with ACTION in this space two weeks ago, and we'll be repeating it from time to time over the next two months, but I'll give you some new, never-before disclosed information: we've got a Superman/Batman team-up Prestige Format series coming up that, at least right now, we're calling WORLD'S FINEST COMICS. And one of those new anthology books we've got under consideration (as mentioned in ACW #632) has the working title of ADVENTURE COMICS.

We'll keep you informed.

• • •

Dear ACTION COMICS WEEKLY
Re: ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #623

Following these important messages, we'll have some feedback.

Important message: you call this book an experiment. I call it an experiment that has worked successfully. Mind you, when this book first came out, I was a little wary about shelling out a buck fifty. But this book has great features, featuring some of my favorite characters, writers, and artists. And now Marvel has also tried out your idea, the result being *Marvel Comics Presents* (it's not a bad book, in my opinion; it just needs a little polishing). Now, I don't mind shelling out the $1.50 for this book because it's well worth it.

Okay, it's feedback time.

First of all: SHAZAM! Yeah! The best feature of this issue! I have loved the Big Red Cheese' since I was six years old. Seeing him in this issue was wonderful! The storyline was good (considering I don't like what Roy and Dann Thomas have been doing over the past year. Sorry Roy and Dann, just trying to be honest), and Stasiuk and Magyar's art was superb! Any chance of getting these guys to do the regular art chores on the upcoming SHAZAM! monthly series?

• Green Lantern: This was all right. In my opinion, Peter David did a great job with Green Lantern, but I'll stick around to see how Jim Owsley does. Any chance of getting Star Sapphire back in these pages?

Superman: I don't know why everyone's so down on this feature. I think what you guys are doing with it is wonderful. Tell Roger Curt, and Murphy they are doing a good job, but try to wrap up this storyline soon. It's starting to get a tad boring (at least for me).

Secret Six: The storyline is also getting a bit drawn out. Tell us who Mockingbird is soon!

Phantom Stranger: Garcia Lopez has done better artwork, and Kupperberg's written better Phantom Stranger tales. This story just didn't work for me. Also, get rid of that letterer!

Deadman: Stunk. Boston Brand's one of my favorite characters. Don't abuse him this way. Keep Baron, since I know he can write great stories (I give you ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #601-612) but get rid of Jones!

I liked half of the book, didn't like the other half. Ah, well, such is life. A few final notes, questions, suggestions, and predictions. The best features you have had in this book so far: Deadman (the first storyline, not the current one!), Nightwing (exceptionally well done! Give him his own series!), Catwoman, SHAZAM!, and Superman (yes, fellow readers, SUPERMAN! The two-pagers works, just give it a shot!). A question: what will be the next SHOWCASE feature?

A suggestion: issue #636 is the "boom issue," eh? Here's a thought: have some of the writers who wrote stories in the Bonus Book experiments write some of the new features! Just a thought. Finally, a prediction: many people have wanted to see the Challengers of the Unknown in ACTION COMICS WEEKLY as a new feature (including me). I suspect that the Chals will be one of the new features premiering in #636. I hope I'm right! Keep up the great work.

Lance R. Axt
32 Sunnydale Ave.
San Carlos, CA 94070

Our next "Showcase" feature, Lance, will be an entirely new creation: Hero Hotline, by Bob Rozakis and Stephen DeStefano. It'll be starting in ACW #637!

• • • • •

Dear Editor(s),

Week 23, review number 23. Enjoy.

1) Secret Six—The best team feature going today, aside from JUSTICE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL and the TITANS. Pasko should be voted Favorite Writer in next year's *Comic Buyer's Guide* Fan Awards, though the voting, I fear, will be slanted in a certain direction. Keep up the action, and the mystery.

2) Phantom Stranger—If there ever was a need for a designated fill-in feature on a full-time basis, this would be it. The Stranger has been a personal favorite of mine for years, and I will not rest until he gets his own book again. Paul Kupperberg and Jose Luis Garcia-Lopez would be a great creative team for such a revival, as evidenced by this issue. If not a regular book, at least give him a home somewhere.

3) SHAZAM! (SHOWCASE)—Give me a break! Sure, it's a nice idea to have Capt. Billy traumatized because he inadvertently killed someone, or let him be on a guilt trip. But the use of another group of fanatics (do they grow on trees or what?) to make the story believable is rather unnecessary. Why couldn't you make it a little simpler, like failing to rescue a potential suicide victim? That

makes a better story than this half baked hack job (sorry, Roy, but you've had this coming). Steel is a saver, and that's the size of it.

4) Green Lantern—Now we're getting someplace. This harkens back to some of Green Lantern's best stories in his own book, which should be resurrected soon, to get Hal out of here. The art still isn't spectacular, but it'll do. Owsley must've been to the DC library to get the idea (or the basics thereof) for this tale, and for that he gets kudos from this critic.

5) Deadman—This is getting better as well. A weird sort of Armageddon awaits Deadman in dealing with the Voodoo Queens of New Orleans. Now that I think of it, since the Suicide Squad's based in Louisiana (until the latest issue, Capt. Boomerang lived in New Orleans, for that matter) and the present storyline there has a bit to do with voodoo, why not have Deadman visit that book in some fashion soon? The art still isn't that great, but the script is making up for it—for now.

6) Superman—Quite a comedown here. Supes as the Antichrist? *Give to me the break!!* More fanatics than you can shake a stick at in this whole book! Roger, you've gone too far! I needn't say anything more.

I will now throw my hat into the ring regarding the possibility of another weekly title. Let it be ADVENTURE, with the numbering remaining as is, as J. Alexander Hall suggested. Let me offer the line-up for the book.

ADVENTURE WEEKLY would look like this. Permanent features: Aquaman (by Levitz and Gil Kane, can you imagine Aquaman by Kane?) and Zatanna (by Pasko and Morrow). Rotating features: Creeper, Changeling (with Danny Chase, a la Nightwing and Speedy), Black Orchid (after the mini-series), Power Girl, and Hawkman. Not that I'm putting up only five features per issue rather than the six here, and I suppose you know why: *two pages aren't enough for any feature!* Let the suggestion be tabled.

Thank you for listening.

Jacob Gilbert
118 4th St., Apt. 1
Troy, MI 12180

Since I've been plugging away like mad this week, Jacob, let me take this opportunity to mention our upcoming AQUAMAN mini-series, written by Keith Giffen and Robert Loren Fleming, drawn by Curt Swan and Al Vey. Watch for it.

* * * * *

Dear Sir or Madam,

This is the first letter I've ever written to DC (save the applause for later). First I'll rank the features in ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #623, then I'll make comments on this title in general.

1) SHAZAM! I'm glad you brought the original Captain Marvel back in circulation. I saw his live action TV series when I was a kid. I'm 20 and a math major at SUNY at Stony Brook. Seeing a character have doubts about his strengths is interesting. By the way, could you enlighten the ignorant masses of the world as to what each letter in SHAZAM! means?

2) Secret Six: This story seems to have a ton of thrills (and is reminiscent of another DC title, COPS (which I think is *Dragnet* crossed over with the Secret Six).

3) Deadman: Seeing a ghost who also possesses living people as a super-hero is definitely offbeat. Good story, good artwork. Old paleface has my vote.

4) Green Lantern: Another super person I grew up watching (via the *Super Friends* TV series). It's sad to see that Hal Jordan is down on his luck. Hope he snaps out of it.

5) Phantom Stranger: At first, I thought the Phantom Stranger was a heavy, but he turns out to be a hero. The problem is, he's too much like the Shadow in his appearance and manner. Oh, well.

6) Superman: Yet another super person I grew up with, what with his various TV and movie appearances. But I have to agree with most people: two pages doesn't cut it.

Which leads to my comments on the mag in general:

1) I think you should trash the ads and devote eight pages to each feature. A certain bi-weekly from the other guys (and they know who they are) runs no ads at all. That way, Superman can develop to his full potential.

2) I like the mixture of heroes you've chosen. You seem to use a lot of cancelled characters. That's okay. As for the heroes themselves, they're great. Blackhawk seems to be a soldier of fortune in a time when wars were being won by sheer air power. Black Canary is interesting, and soooooo sexy in her outfit (whistles and catcalls allowed, folks).

3) Finally, I like the writing and artwork in this title. Too bad it's in standard format. Knowing that an upgrade to new or deluxe would cause a price increase, however, it's justifiable.

Well, that's all I have to say. The applause light is on now, so I'll take my leave.

That's all, folks!

Peter Guarin
417 Cherry Ave.
West Sayville, NY 11796

Aha! The ever popular DC Comics reverse spelling bee:

S = Solomon (Wisdom)
H = Heracles (Strength)
A = Atlas (Stamina)
Z = Zeus (Power)
A = Achilles (Courage)
M = Mercury (Speed)

Put them all together, they spell... oh, you know. Although, I must admit, Mad Comics had a more enlightening version in their classic parody, "Superduperman."

* * * * *

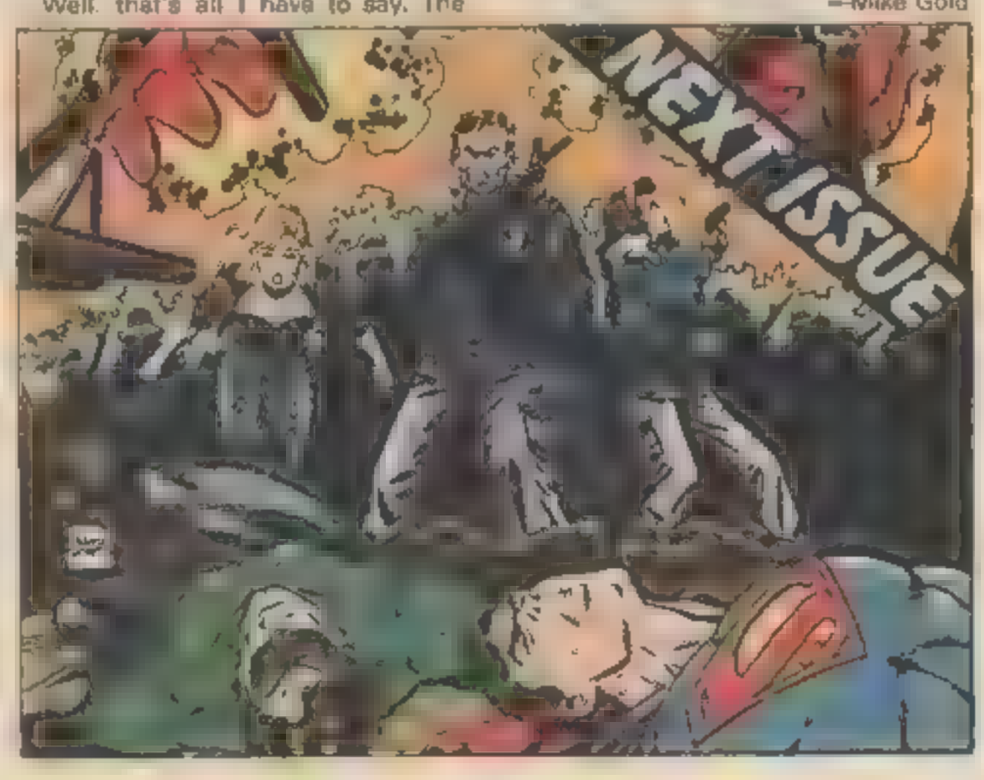
NEXT WEEK, something a wee bit different. Yes, Green Lantern and Superman will be here for their usual solo stories ... but they will also be appearing in a rest-of-the-book-length crossover story, which stars Wonder Woman of the Blackhawks and Black Canary. It's written by Mark Verheiden and drawn by Ed Barreto and John Nyberg. Among other things, this special story will help set things up for our 1989 BLACKHAWK ANNUAL.

And speaking of Blackhawk:

This issue of ACTION marks the Blackhawks' final appearance in these pages, next week's crossover notwithstanding. But do not despair ... in just a little over a month, for the first time ever (think about it, comics fans) you'll be seeing BLACKHAWK #1, our new New Format monthly (that means it's in the same format as GREEN ARROW). It'll be written and drawn by our present team of Marty Pasko and Rick Burchett, and it'll pick up right where this series leaves off, with an exciting two-part story about communism in the comics industry (?!?). What else can we call it but ... "All In Color for a Crime?"

See you here at ACW in seven!

—Mike Gold



ROCKS AND HARD PLACES
CHAPTER NINE:
THE CIRCLE CLOSES
YOU BOYS ARE COMING WITH ME
DO YOU FEEL STUPID OR WHAT?
TOP SECRET
AND
SPEEDY
CHERIE WILKERSON, writer
TOM MANDRAKE, artist
JOHN COSTANZA, letterer
ADRIENNE ROY, colorist
BARBARA KESEL, editor

SHALL WE?
FREEZE!
WE, COME BACK TO THE CBI, SPEEDY!

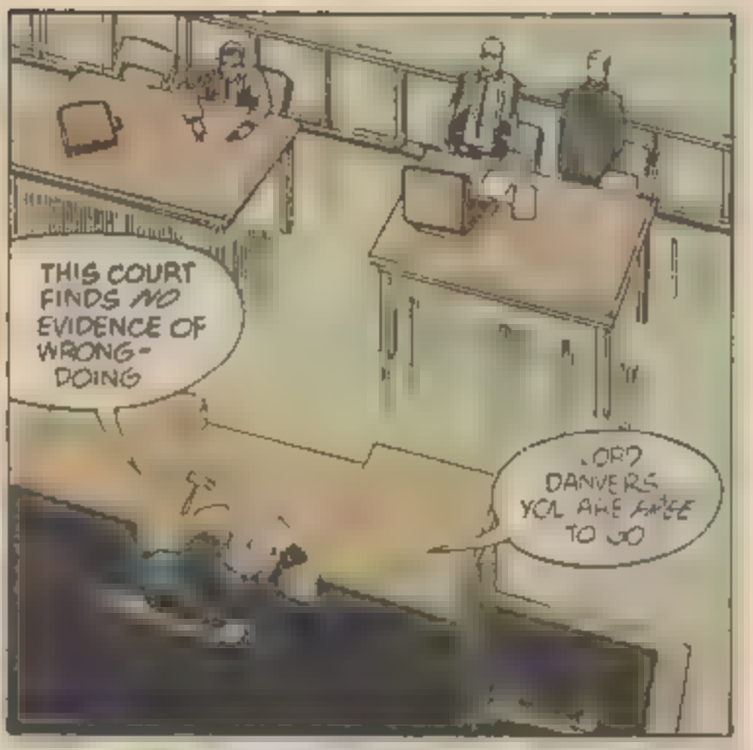
IF YOU LL STEP INSIDE MY OFFICE WE CAN DISCUSS YOUR REINSTATE-MENT IN PRIVATE
NOT EVERYONE WANTS YOU BACK
WHAT S TH S? SURVE LLANCE HEADQUARTERS?
I VE NEVER SEEN SO MUCH STUFF BEFORE
IT S VERY HANDY FOR KEEPING TABS ON CEOs WHO GO ASTRAY
LIKE SEPULVEDA?
RIGHT YOU GUESSED CORRECTLY THAT THOSE ROUT NG MEMOS LINKED THE CBI W TH DRUG SH PMENTS
WHAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW WAS THAT SEPULVEDA WAS BEHIND THEM
CBI
WHAT WE DON'T KNOW IS WHO IS BEHIND HIM
IT S SOMEONE OUT OF THE COUNTRY
5

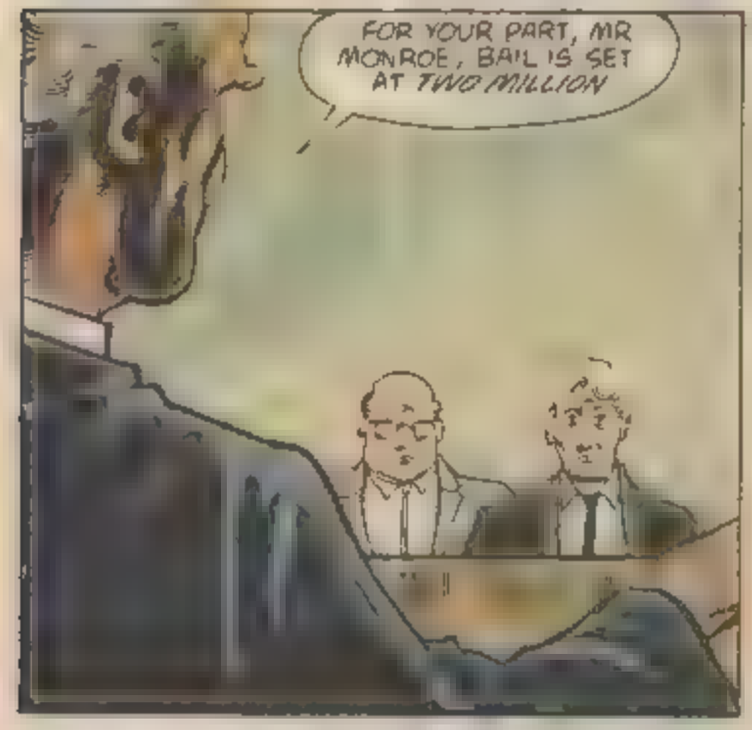
I THINK ME CAN HELP YOU WITH THAT
IT HAS TO BE LORD DANVERS
WONDERFUL A MAN WHO NEVER SIGNS ANYTHING AND HAS FRIENDS IN ALL THE RIGHT PLACES
THEN HOW'D HUNTER FIGURE IT OUT?
POLICEMAN'S INSTINCTS
DANVERS IS THE CLOSE FRIEND OF A VERY IMPORTANT ADVISOR TO THE PRIME MINISTER--
-- WHO ADVISED THE PM TO KILL MY REPORT
4

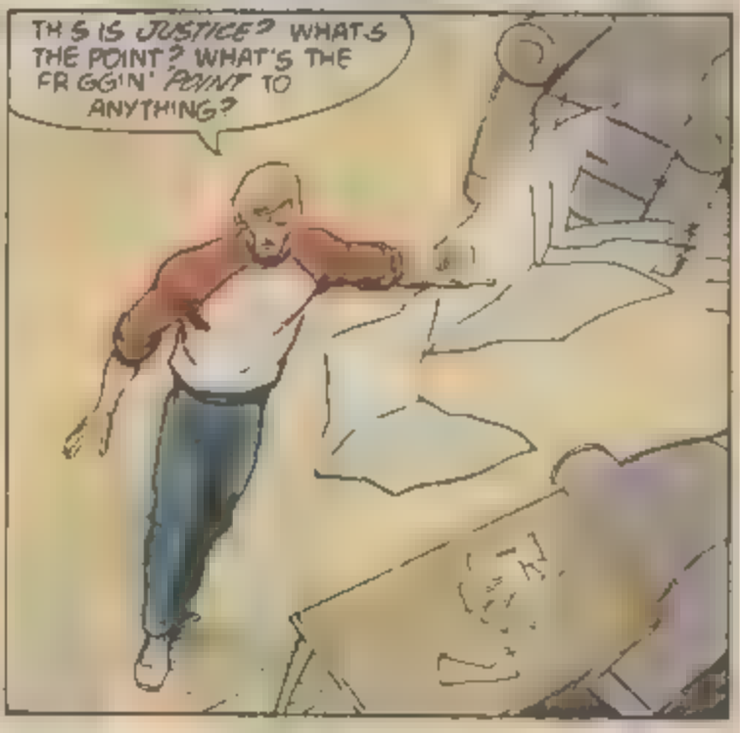
I INVESTIGATED THE F.O.E.S--AN ANTI-IRISH TERRORIST GROUP, PART POLICE, PART ARMY--FOR MURDER.
"THEY USED THEIR ACCESS TO INFORMATION TO DESTROY THE EVIDENCE, BUT THAT WAS EQUALLY INCRIMINATING."
"TOO INCRIMINATING, AS IT TURNED OUT."
SINCE WHEN IS THE TRUTH "COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE TO PEACE IN NORTHERN IRELAND"?
NOW TO SEE IF OUR DUCKS ARE ALL LINED UP IN A ROW
CHARLES, THE MISSING LINK IS DAWERS.
HE WAS QUOTING THE PRIME MINISTER--
--WHO WAS QUOTING THE ADVISOR AFTER MEETING WITH LORD DAWERS
THANK YOU FOR LEADING ME TO HUNTER AND DAWERS.
5

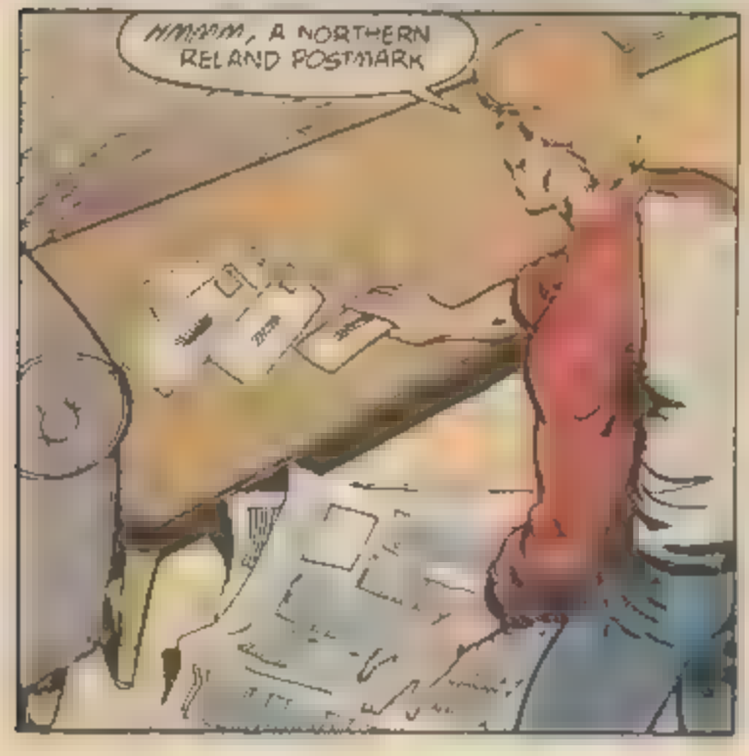
CDI
MR SEPULVEDA' IS T TRUE ABOUT THE DRUGS?
IF THEY GET DANVERS, THEY'LL GET ME!
WHERE ARE THOSE MEMOS?!
LORD DANVERS?
IT DOES ME GOOD TO SEE DANVERS BEHND BARS
DON'T COUNT ON HIS STAYING THERE
BUT THANK'S ANYWAY FOR THE--
MR HUNTER' A MOMENT PLEASE
HOPE HE LIKES ATTENTION
HE'LL GET USED TO IT
6

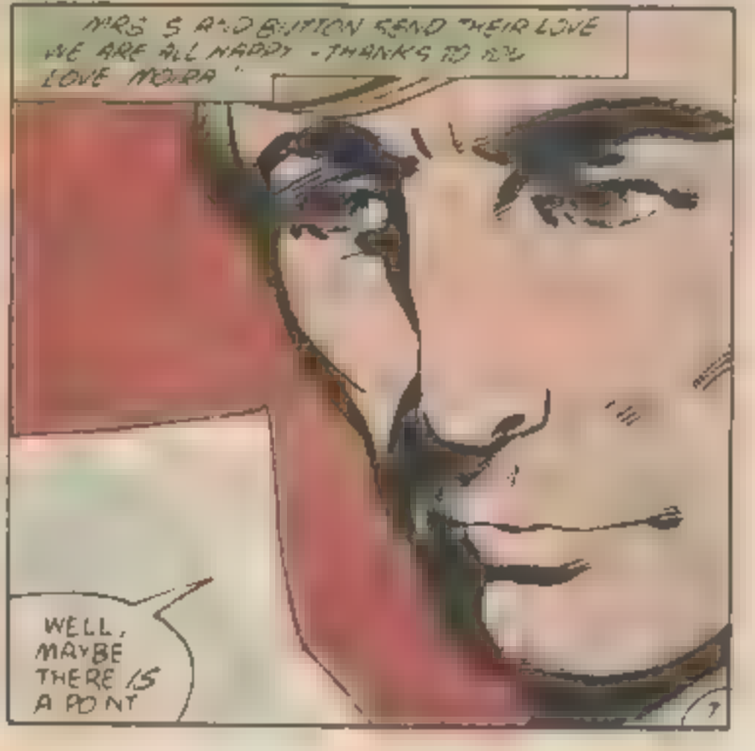
THIRTY YEARS FOR YOU, SEPULVEDA!


THIS COURT FINDS NO EVIDENCE OF WRONG-DOING
LORD DANVERS YOU ARE FREE TO GO

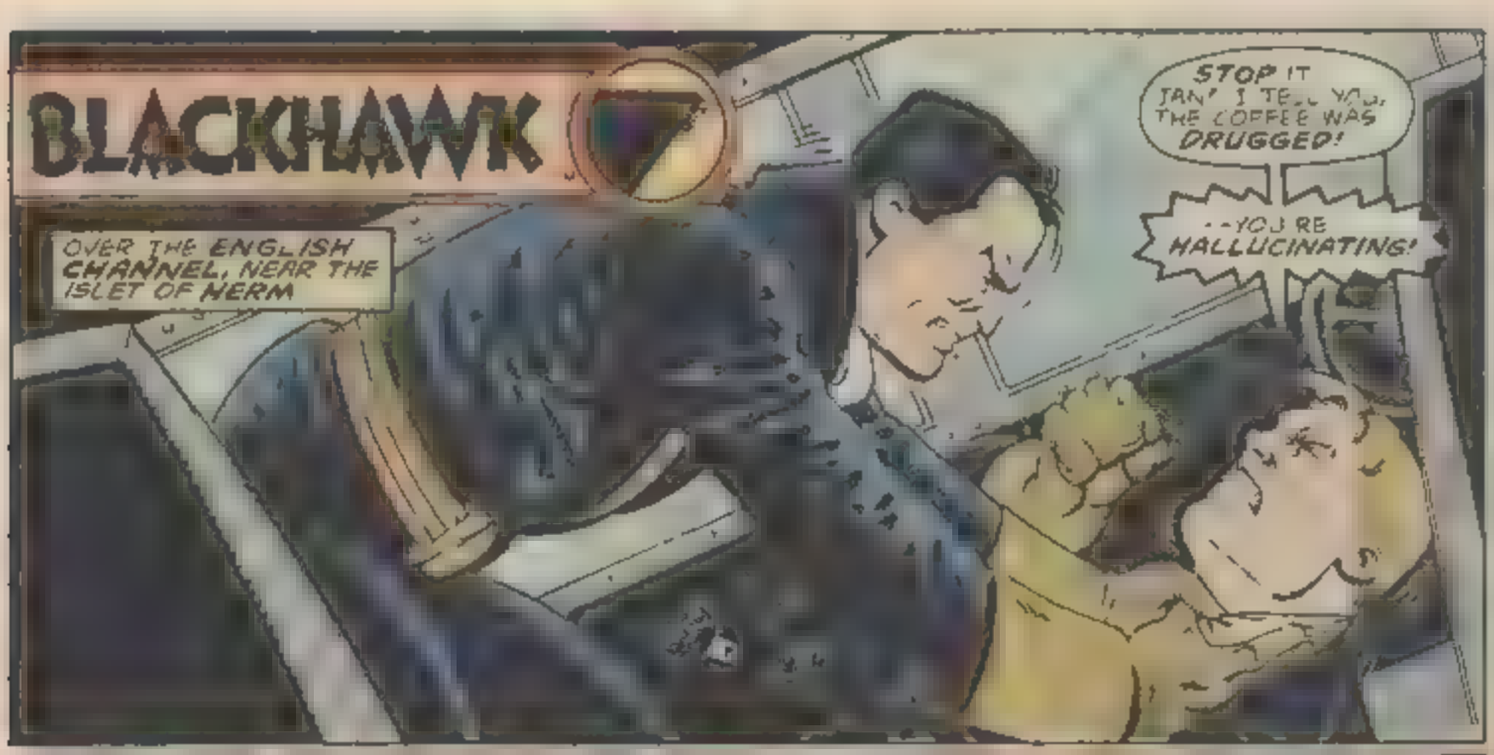

FOR YOUR PART, MR MONROE, BAIL IS SET AT TWO MILLION


THIS IS JUSTICE? WHAT'S THE POINT? WHAT'S THE FRIGGIN' POINT TO ANYTHING?


HMMM, A NORTHERN IRELAND POSTMARK

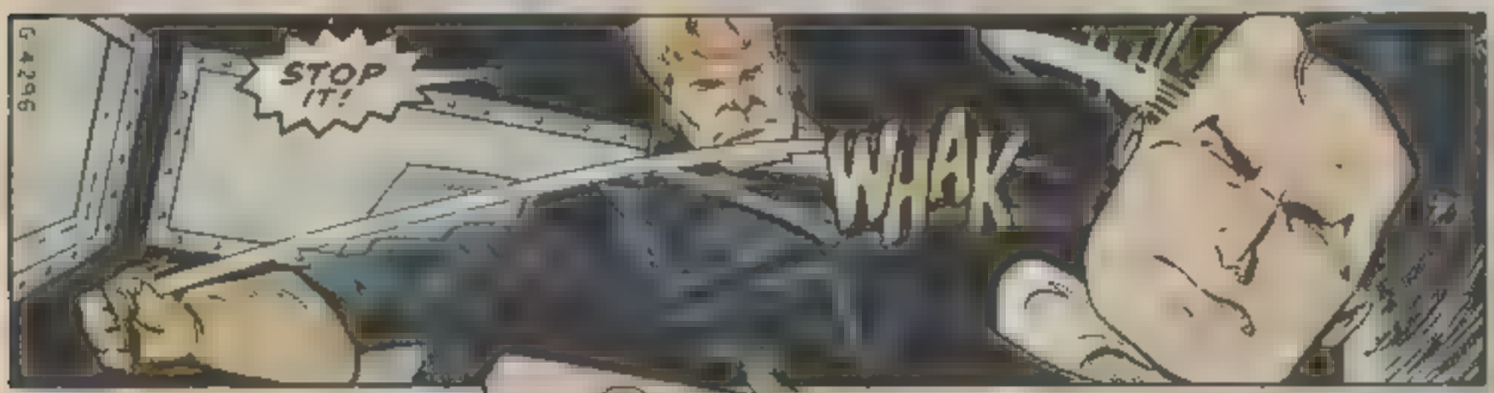

MRS S AND BUTTON SEND THEIR LOVE WE ARE ALL HAPPY - THANKS TO YOU LOVE MOIRA
WELL, MAYBE THERE IS A POINT

SO MOIRA AND BUTTON ARE DOING JUST FINE -- I'M GLAD TO HEAR IT
COME HERE, SWEET-HEART!
HUNTER'S NOT DOING TOO SHABBY
DIDN'T HE JUST WRITE A BOOK?
YEP, WHICH'S MAKING A BUNDLE
HERE'S MOIRA'S LETTER
YOU HEARD ABOUT DANVERS?
GOT CAUGHT IN A DOUBLE BIND - TAX EVASION AND A SEX SCANDAL. HE HUNG HIM-SELF
WELL, I CAN'T SAY I'M SORRY
SOMETIMES JUSTICE DOES PREVAIL.
8

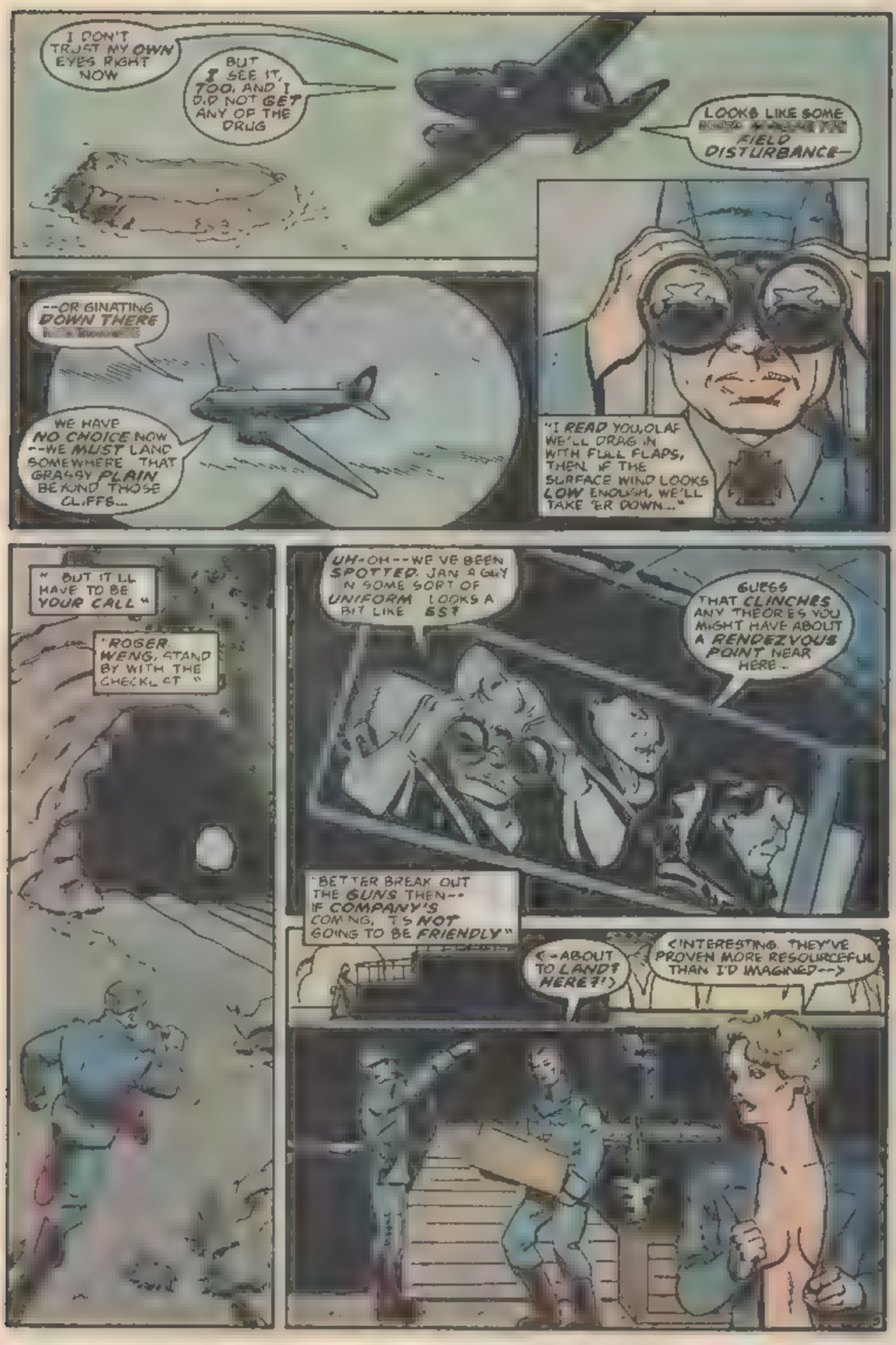


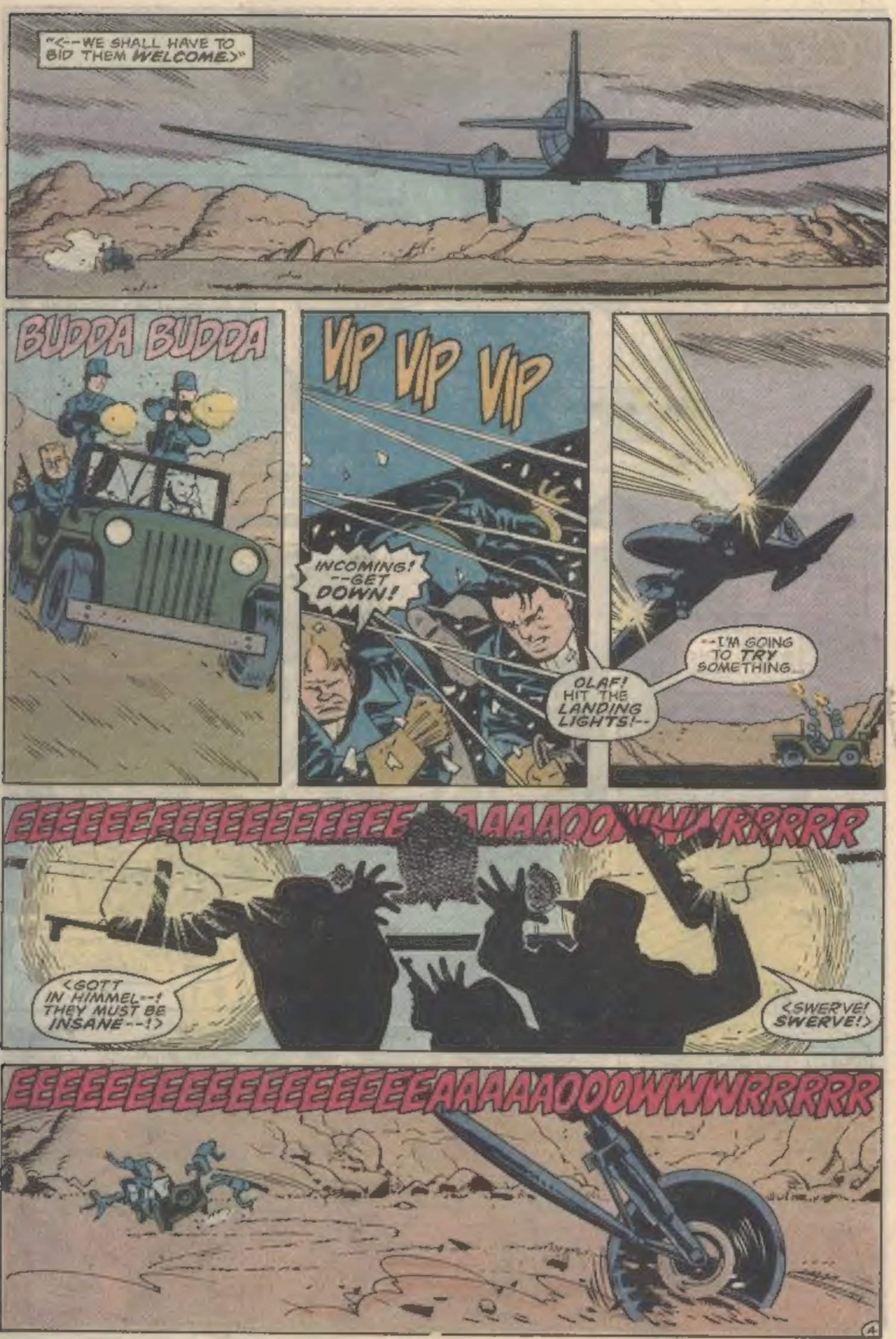
COMING DOWN

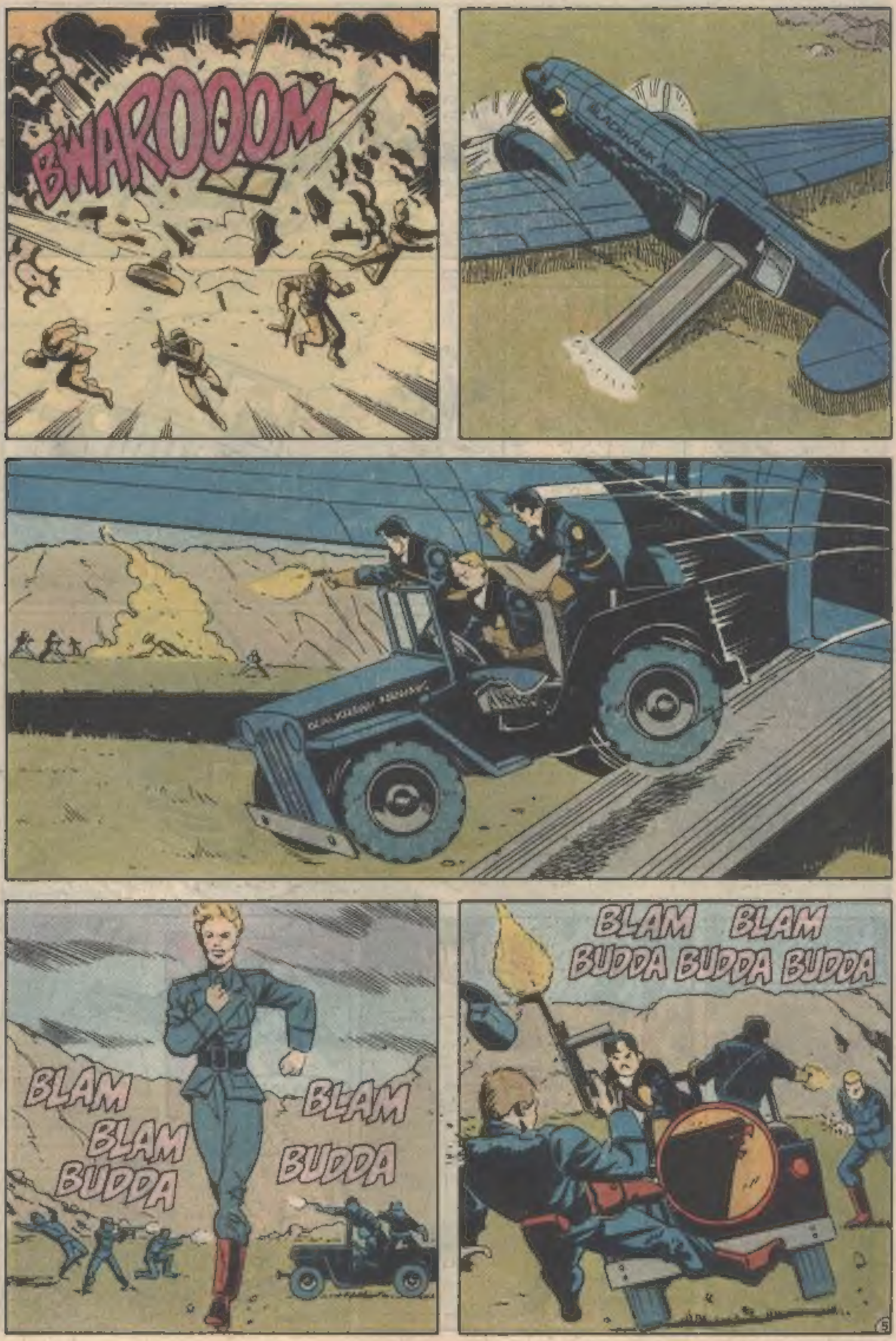
WRITTEN BY MARTIN PASKO
DRAWN BY RICK BURCHETT
LETTERED BY STEVE HAYNIE
COLORED BY TOM ZIUKO
EDITED BY MIKE GOLD

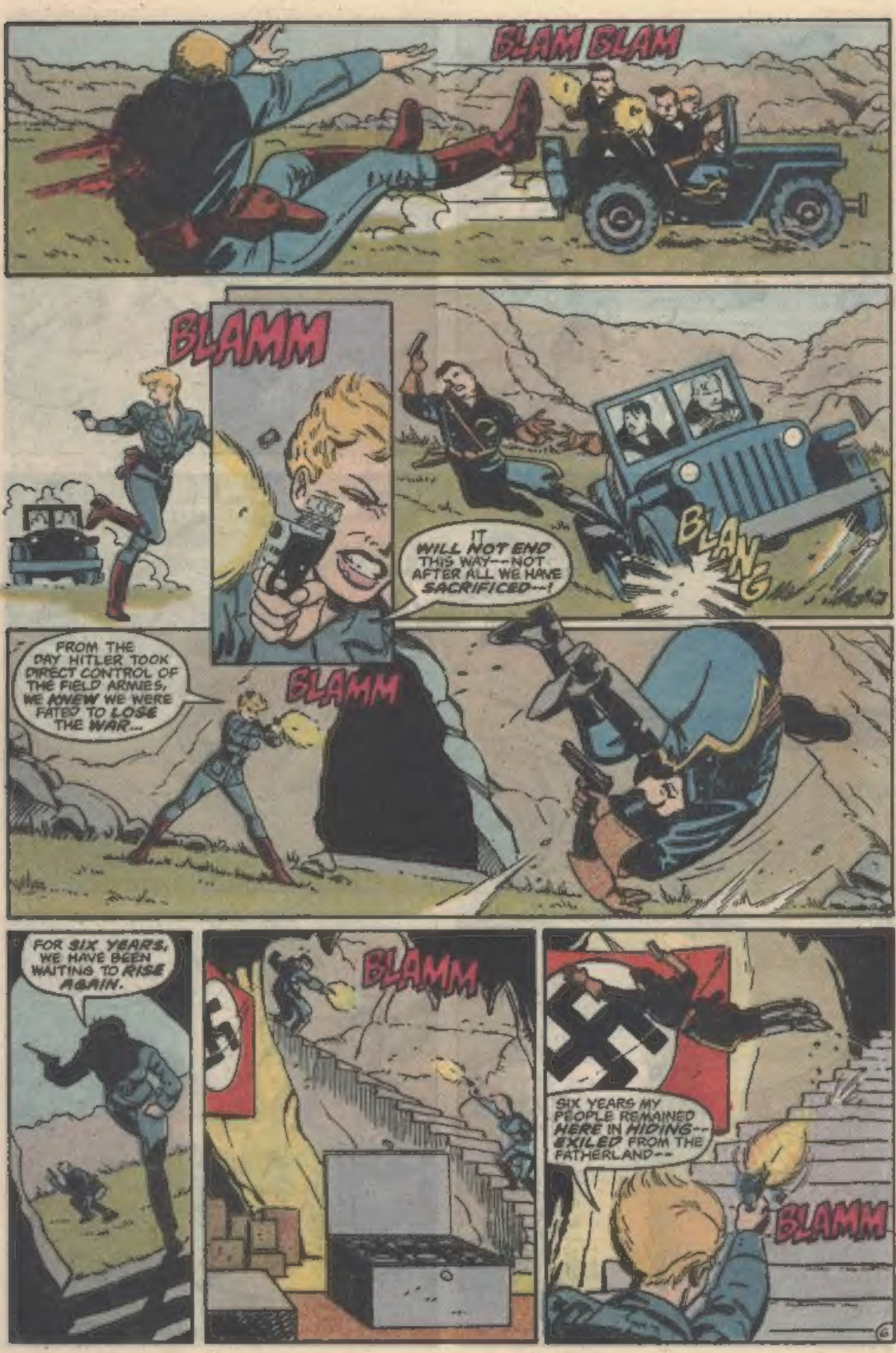


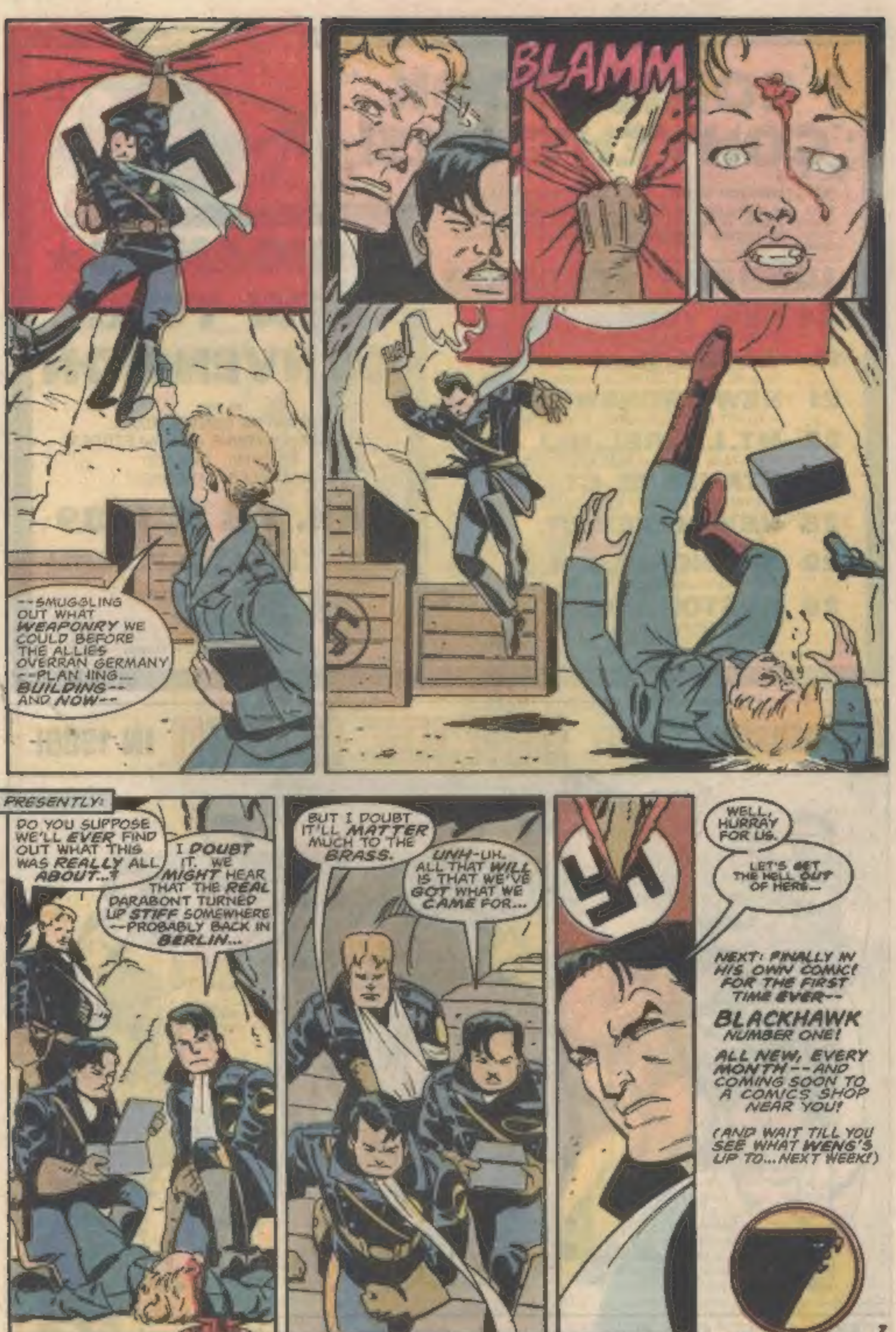
--THEN PERHAPS I NEEDN'T BOTHER WITH THE PRAYERS I'VE BEEN TRYING TO REMEMBER ..
WHAT HAPPENED TO CHUCK AND ANDRE?
THEY DRANK A BIT MORE OF THE COFFEE THAN YOU DID, JAN
I'M AFRAID I--AH--HAD TO GET THEM OUT OF THE WAY
WE'D BETTER FIND A PLACE TO SET 'ER DOWN, THEN WE'LL LET THEM SLEEP IT OFF .. AND GET THAT ARM OF YOURS TAKEN CARE OF
WENG! YOU OKAY?
HELL, NO! I'M SEEING WEIRD COLORS AN' CRAP BUT I CAN FUNCTION
IT'LL WEAR OFF SOON.
SCREW THAT-- WILL SOMEBODY PLEASE TELL ME WHAT THE HELL IS GOIN' ON?--
ONE OF THE CHUTES IS MISSING! SO'S OUR PASSENGER-- AND THE CARGO!
LOOKS LIKE OUR MISS DARABONT WAS AN IMPOSTOR-- A GERMAN NATIONAL-- WHO BAILED OUT WITH IT! BUT WHERE TO?
SOMEBODY BELOW HAD TO HAVE ARRANGED A RENDEZVOUS BUT--
JAN, LOOK!--THE SCOPE- ALL THE INSTRUMENTS--
"--GOIN' HAYWIRE!"
<SYSTEMS CHECK ON THE RADAR-JAMMING DEVICE COMPLETED, MY LEADER SHE IS READY TO GO.>
<SEHR GUT. BEGIN LOADING THE WEAPONS>
2


I DON'T TRUST MY OWN EYES RIGHT NOW
BUT I SEE IT, TOO, AND I D.D NOT GET ANY OF THE DRUG
LOOKS LIKE SOME [redacted] FIELD DISTURBANCE—
--OR GINATING DOWN THERE [redacted]
WE HAVE NO CHOICE NOW --WE MUST LAND SOMEWHERE THAT GRASSY PLAIN BEYOND THOSE CLIFFS...
"I READ YOU, OLAF WE'LL DRAG IN WITH FULL FLAPS, THEN IF THE SURFACE WIND LOOKS LOW ENOUGH, WE'LL TAKE 'ER DOWN..."
" BUT IT LL HAVE TO BE YOUR CALL "
"ROGER WENG, STAND BY WITH THE CHECKL CT "
UH-OH--WE VE BEEN SPOTTED. JAN A GUY N SOME SORT OF UNIFORM LOOKS A BIT LIKE SS?
GUESS THAT CLINCHES ANY THEORIES YOU MIGHT HAVE ABOUT A RENDEZVOUS POINT NEAR HERE...
"BETTER BREAK OUT THE GUNS THEN-- IF COMPANY'S COMING, IT'S NOT GOING TO BE FRIENDLY"
<--ABOUT TO LAND? HERE?!>
<INTERESTING. THEY'VE PROVEN MORE RESOURCEFUL THAN I'D IMAGINED-->
3


"<--WE SHALL HAVE TO BID THEM WELCOME.>"
BUDDA BUDDA
VIP VIP VIP
INCOMING! --GET DOWN!
OLAF! HIT THE LANDING LIGHTS!--
--I'M GOING TO TRY SOMETHING...
EEEE


BWAROOOM
BLAM BLAM BUDDA
BLAM BUDDA
BLAM BLAM BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA


BLAM BLAM
BLAMM
IT WILL NOT END THIS WAY---NOT AFTER ALL WE HAVE SACRIFICED---!
BLANG
FROM THE DAY HITLER TOOK DIRECT CONTROL OF THE FIELD ARMIES, WE KNEW WE WERE FATED TO LOSE THE WAR...
BLAMM
FOR SIX YEARS, WE HAVE BEEN WAITING TO RISE AGAIN.
BLAMM
SIX YEARS MY PEOPLE REMAINED HERE IN HIDING--- EXILED FROM THE FATHERLAND---
BLAMM
6


--SMUGGLING OUT WHAT WEAPONRY WE COULD BEFORE THE ALLIES OVERRAN GERMANY --PLANNING... BUILDING-- AND NOW--
BLAMM
PRESENTLY:
DO YOU SUPPOSE WE'LL EVER FIND OUT WHAT THIS WAS REALLY ALL ABOUT...?
I DOUBT IT. WE MIGHT HEAR THAT THE REAL DARABONT TURNED UP STIFF SOMEWHERE --PROBABLY BACK IN BERLIN...
BUT I DOUBT IT'LL MATTER MUCH TO THE BRASS.
UNH-UH. ALL THAT WILL IS THAT WE'VE GOT WHAT WE CAME FOR...
WELL, HURRAY FOR US.
LET'S GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE...
NEXT: FINALLY IN HIS OWN COMIC! FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER--
BLACKHAWK
NUMBER ONE!
ALL NEW, EVERY MONTH--AND COMING SOON TO A COMICS SHOP NEAR YOU!
(AND WAIT TILL YOU SEE WHAT WENG'S UP TO...NEXT WEEK!)